

NORTHERN UFOLOGY



NORTHERN UFOLOGY published in monthly series with Northern UFO News
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Editorial: "Dear Old Patrick - your sins are forgiven! "

Dear Old Patrick Moore, BBC TVs jovial astronomer, took up the UFO gauntlet again on December 11. His "SKY AT NIGHT" programme was devoted to the theme 'UFOE - Fact or Fantasy?' and consisted of an interesting dialogue between himself and the entertainer Michael Bentine.

Bentine was no doubt regarded by many as a strange choice as the 'UFO expert' - but in fact he put his case quite admirably. I had known of his great interest since 1975 where he appeared on a late night chat show of which I was also a guest. Between records we discussed UFOs and it became obvious that not only was he both interested and knowledgeable, but also he had had a couple of personal experiences (one of which he described to SKY AT NIGHT viewers)

Patrick Moore continued his familiar approach as a "total sceptic" and Bentine, rather nicely, called himself a "hopeful agnostic". As it turned out Moore was sceptical only of the 'spaceships' hypothesis (on quite reasonable grounds) and went on to actually describe a local unexplained case he had just investigated. Bentine, whilst aware of many of the natural phenomena that can give rise to UFO sightings, was more of an ETH man and cited the intriguing theory of aliens beamed here like radio signals.

In the main I found that I supported what was said by both men - UFOs are not spaceships (Moore); Von Danikens ideas have no relevance even if true (Bentine); many phenomena are misidentified (Moore) and a residual of unknowns remains as a puzzle (amazingly - both men!) It was, however, rather amusing to note how the entire CE3 evidence was dismissed by Patrick Moore as 'wish fulfillment' on the strength of the Adamski and Menger cases from 25 years ago! He seemed to know nothing about the more 'down to earth' CE3s (an unintentional, but no doubt Freudian, pun); nor of current psychosocial theories. Amazingly, just a few days later, actor William Shatner (alias STAR TREK's Captain Kirk) discussed UFOs with BBC personality James Burke on the Parkinson show. Rather than come out in favour of the ETH (and it is well known that Shatner believes in UFOs) he proclaimed the 'Jungian Archetype' theory - which rather left a somewhat unprepared and obviously ignorant Burke floundering.

The SKY AT NIGHT treatment was superficial and only scratched the surface. To UFOlogists it told us nothing. However, even from two extremist viewpoints a consensus opinion that TRUE UFOs exist did emerge. Even if, like myself, you appreciate that the true answers lay between or even apart from these discussions, then that feat is in itself no mean achievement for a BBC programme. I will never be hard on Dear Old Patrick again - provided he stops parading silly UFO solutions to witnesses for the sake of it. I wrote at length to tell him so after the programme (and if he favours a reply I will let you know)

It is a hopeful sign for the start of the eighties that an arch debunker should - almost - proclaim himself a believer! He has one more step to take. He must realise (as Bentine suggested) that there are some of us out here who are not like those portrayed in Moore's "Can You Speak Venusian?". We have our feet firmly on the ground, and our heads most definitely not in a UFO! ☐

IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1980 HAS NOT BEEN PAID THIS IS THE FINAL REMINDER.
 AN "X" IN THE BOX INDICATES THIS

NB As noted previously your editor is moving. The new address will be on the cover of the February NORTHERN UFO NEWS. However, as the house is being built at the moment it is uncertain when exactly in February the move will occur. For the time being all mail should be sent to the present IRLAM address. It will be forwarded. I apologise for any delays this, and the hurly burly of the move itself, may cause in correspondence and possibly production of the next two issues of this newsletter. Please bear with me.

NB PLEASE NOTE THAT FURTHER TO THE ABOVE MY PHONE NUMBER WILL BE UNAVAILABLE FROM JAN 26 APOLOGIES ARE OFFERED UNTIL A NEW NUMBER CAN BE GIVEN TO YOU. JR

NEWS ROUND-UP

:: Two groups have requested to stage NUFON ventures in 1980 so far. These are PARASEARCH (in Wolverhampton) and MIGAP (in Liverpool) Both suggestions will, of course, be taken up. The first event is to be organised for approximately early April. The feeling seems to be to have less policy discussion and more case report analysis or research result presentation. Consequently the plan will be to do this. If you have any specialist research you would wish to provide an illustrated paper on, or a CE case that you feel would make an interesting paper for discussion, please advise as soon as possible so that we can try to arrange a programme.

:: The theme for the April issue of NORTHERN UFOLOGY is to be: "UFOs and the Paranormal - Is there a link?" Contributions welcome.

:: The HOUSE OF LORDS Jan 79 UFO debate is now published in book form with a full transcript and preface by Lord Clancarty (Brinsley Le Poer Trench) and annotated notes by John Michell. Available at £3.25 (post inc) from:-

Pentacle Books 6 Perry Rd Bristol 1 Avon

:: UFOs Over Jersey association are to publish a new twice yearly magazine entitled UAP ENCOUNTERS. The first issue is due February and issues will only be available to serious researchers. Contributions are requested (CE cases with full documentation and photographs) Write to:-

Dean Preston Hautes Murailles, Samares Lane, St Clement, Jersey, Channel Isles

:: Thanks are due to Sid Henley of NUFOIS who has taken over the job of organising the files and is doing a great job sorting out the backlog. When writing to the HQ reference a file write direct to Sid, quoting the file number and if a reply is required enclosing an SAE.

Quote of the month: On December 11 a US Satellite was launched. After firing the boosters it disappeared! The official quote... er... "Its either exploded, or its flying about somewhere in the universe" (That narrows it down a bit!)

MAGAZINE REVIEWS

The Irish UFO Research Centre (19 Cairnshill Ave, Belfast BT8 4NR, N Ireland) have just published an updated and nicely presented version of the Mrs H Psychic Contactee case from 1976. This excellent 29 page report is to be placed on file at the HQ. Credit to editors John Hind and Miles Johnston. FSRs first issue in its silver jubilee year continues the story of the Sunderland family encounters from Oakenholt, Clwyd (85p from FSR Publications, West Malling, Maidstone, Kent) MUFOB issue 50 has appeared in the same format but as issue 1 of MAGONIA (£1.75pa from 64 Alric Ave, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4JW) Despite expanding its scope a little it contains the usual features and an excellent article on UFO ethics from Dr Berthold Schwarz. FORTÉAN TIMES No 30 is a new format but literally packed with masses of useful information. Apart from Nigel Watson's column there are pieces on Skyfalls of fishes, stigmata events, wierd deaths and strange natural spontaneous images. Packed with pictures and totally indispensable. (95p from 9-12 St Annes Court, London W1) BUFORA JOURNAL (£5 pa from 6 Cairn Ave, London W5 5H) devotes much of its Nov 79 issue to a picture review of the London congress and a report on the Llanerchymedd case from FUFOR. AWARENESS from CONTACT Summer and Autumn 79 are just out. Articles include "The Suicide Syndrome" by Jenny Randles and "Phantom Helicopters" by David Rees (19 Cumnor Rd, Wootton, Boars Hill Oxon) CHRYISIS have just produced their last 1979 issue (48 Britannia Place, Dormanstown, Redcar, Cleveland) MAPIT have produced the Dec/Jan SKYWATCH (92 Hillcrest Rd, Offerton, Stockport SK2 5SE) with several commentary articles on the London Congress. NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES GROUP Newsletter number 3 is out with more on megaliths and leylines in the north (61 Clumber St, Hull HU5 3RH) and SIGAP have produced a new issue of PEGASUS for Nov/Dec. This contains a report on the Blackbushe encounter (mini UFO pacing an aircraft) and other local cases (25p from 149 Mytchett Rd, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey) Finally two new magazines to report on. The BFSB (Britains oldest UFO group, from Bristol) have produced UFO NEWS BULLETIN (4 Newton St, Easton, Bristol, Avon) A nice looking 22 page bi-monthly it contains local cases and news and a CE3 from Devon. HELIOS NEWS is somewhat different. It labels itself 'A magazine of extraterrestrial communications and comment' You may not agree with it, but you should find it of interest. It contains spiritual and physical 'comments' from extraterrestrial contacts and aims not to study but understand ET life. (25p from 'Thistledome' 65 Clophill Rd, Upper Gravenhurst, Bedfordshire)

BRITISH UFO BOOKS...1979 Newly published books in the UK during the year

After years when hardly any British produced books appeared 1979 has seen quite a bonanza with all seven published works being from British authors.

Arthur Shuttlewood, well known Warminster journalist, had two more offerings for us. MORE UFOs OVER WARMINSTER (Barker, Hardback) was published in June and is more of the same - experiences at the famous ufocal, including a somewhat inaccurate report on the Stonehenge Movie film case. UFO MAGIC IN MOTION (Sphere paperbacks, £1.10) contains dozens of sightings all taken at face value with no coherent thread. The book seems to totally lack purpose, but if you like his verbose style then it's for you (personally I have to struggle to get through it) Published October. The same month saw publication of my choice of the year (my own book obviously excluded!)

THE DYFED ENIGMA (Faber & Faber, Hardback £5.95) is the report by Randall Jones-Pugh and writer FW Holliday (who sadly died in the Spring) on the 1977 Welsh wave. Excellent straightforward reportage, in easy to read style. A little speculation, but really it just gives the stories and does this in a very objective fashion.

Two more offerings covered more or less the same ground. THE WELSH TRIANGLE (Panther Paperback, £1.25) came out the month after THE DYFED ENIGMA. Author Peter Paget is a well known southern ufologist from UFO INFO. Apart from more or less covering the same cases a few interesting ones from outside Wales are added. Speculation is rife (about alien undersea bases and cloned MIB spacemen) but with nothing which seems to support it. Almost the same can be said about journalist Clive Harold's

THE UNINVITED (Star Paperbacks, 95p) Published first of the bunch in July it created the biggest stir of any book on the subject. Nicely written account of just the Ripperstone Farm sightings in the wave - But it reads so much like a novel the danger

is many will regard it as such. It is a best seller, and a sequel is on the way I gather, but if you want the true reality of the Welsh wave stick to the Randall-

Jones Pugh book. On special offer now in Menzies is a large format hardback at £1.99. Called UFOs, from Hilary Evans, it is good value. He is an SPR committee man and whilst there is little text in the book it is an excellent, general introduction

to the subject and some of the full page dramatic illustrations of case reports (such as the Aveley abduction) are worth seeing. It presumes nothing. Two UK books which contain excellent chapters on UFOs are

LIFETIDE (Hodder & Stoughton, Hardback) - Dr Lyall Watson's latest on 'mind mysteries' and MYSTERIES (Panther paperback, £2.75) a 670 page epic from Colin Wilson which, I warn you, you will take months to read. Both look at the Jungian or 'New Ufology' aspects of UFOs. Finally, I will

mention "UFOs: A British Viewpoint" (Hale hardback, £5.25) by myself and Peter Warrington. It covers all aspects of British Ufology today - cases, attitudes, research and theories. As for 1980 I know of 5 due out already - so things are looking good.

BRITISH UFOLOGY - How should it be organised?

UFOLOGISTS: An outsiders peer into the asylum

by Robin Witting (SUFORS)

Peering and poking; hoping and praying; guessing and dreaming; looking over clouds under stones and round corners the intrepid ufologist perseveres in the quest for extra-terrestrial life evidence; giving the third degree to anyone with the impetuosity to witness a UFO and, however fantastic, filing the report.

The ufologist, with what can only be sinister motives, is knocking at your door; and then come the Men in Black - straight out of the subconscious, out of the mythological past, men from the ministry of none-information. Are the authorities as sceptically bemused as they act? They go to a great deal of trouble to negate and invalidate reports - and what is a positive negative algebraically? The world is a-spin with enough evidence to hang, draw and quarter you for a crime and the man from the ministry scratches his pate and says... "Who? What? Where?"

Then there are the chosen ones - spouting Armageddon into your microphones - the red herring one can well do without when the task is scanty enough. Yet there they are in Sheffield, Leeds - all across England. One ought to herd them together so we can hear them in chorus... "I have been chosen to warn mankind..." rambling on oblivious of the thousand other voices like an avante garde massed concerto, with each singer out of tune with one another.

And what if THEY did come - sweeping in with the tide, spiralling down to earth like God in a whirlwind. Let me point out the interesting relationship here between the spin of the UFO and the nature of the universe - ie the omnipresence of the spiral (the heavens, the structure of nature and of society, the time-spring of watches and, to quote Dylan Thomas "I, a spinning man") If THEY landed scientists would want to dissect them, the politician obsequiously diplomatic - for safety and to boost his all important career, and the General with guns trained on the

An outsiders peer into the asylum cont...

THING with the THING looking on like a bemused missionary with the chiefs and natives pawing him to see if he's good to eat. Of course, pushing to the front, comes the churchman... "What about God?" he asks. "Oh, Him" cries the THING as he produces a test tube containing a mute mouthing little figure at the bottom.

And the Ufologist - what of him? Childlike, wanting to find out all with an 'I told you so' to the authorities - about to steal their lightning - and to the people who surreptitiously filled out application forms for the asylum on your behalf.

What are they doing HERE? I doubt our planet is any more resourceful than any of the thousands, scattered like pollen in space. If we could read the sign on the side of the spacecraft would it say "Xzwy's Charabanc trips - FOR HIRE" ?

I bet you earth is an unimportant little speck on the wings of a buzzing inter-planetary communication system. If the existence of ET life were proven the career of ufologists would career to a fullstop. Mission accomplished. Yet still they gather at the window of earth - looking out.

But then I KNOW that all you ufologists are really aliens acting as decoys against discovery, manning the enemy's own telescopes. One day I will scream into the whirlpool ears of some ufologist... "Come out with your tentacles up!"

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FLYING SAUCERS - (Not So) Serious Business

by Ted Horton (UFOSIS)

A satirical look at British Ufology as it might be presented in the pages of the national media. I do not intend to use the names of existing groups or individuals. I hope no one will take umbrage. If they should, I make no apologies.

HEADLINES... STRIKE ACTION THREATENED BY UFO INVESTIGATORS

Ways are being sought to avert the threatened strike action by investigators for BOUFOGG (Browned off UFO Gripe Group) Members claim they are not being paid expenses for their work. A spokesman said "Other more fortunate investigators get good expenses - like busfares. It is about time we obtained parity"

POLITICAL NEWS... A long term development plan for BMUFOS (Bloody Minded UFO Society) was demanded last night by chairman Mr I.M. Best. The groups national council voted to urge the regional sub-committee to urge the local sub-sub committees to urge the members to support the idea. Mr I.M. Best believes that sterner action is needed to ensure that all the data so far acquired remains in their files alone and does not reach other organisations (especially NMUFOUO (Narrow Minded UFO Universal Organisation)) He ended his speech by saying, "We have been able to fool all of our members all of the time, but I remind all those who are seriously concerned about the pomp and glory of this UFO game that it is the policy of BMUFOS that we be the biggest and the best" He received a standing ovation.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS... The organisers of the International Skywatch to take place on Feb 17 2054 today urged would-be participants, by way of genetic inheritance, to ensure that clean underwear is worn. The possibility of abduction must always be considered in such circumstances.

TRANSFER NEWS... The NSSUFOVG (Not so Silly UFO Visionary Group) have completed a deal bringing the respected investigator Guy Gercounter from the ASBWUFOO (Almost sensible Big World UFO Organisation) When interviewed the investigator had forgotten his name but said that he had agreed to the transfer because the team manager had agreed that he might answer some of the letters sent to him by Mr Gercounter. An added incentive was that his soil samples would be speedily analysed by the latest Fisher Toys Microscope that the group had purchased from Tesco's out of the money saved up from the Council members expenses fund.

LATE NEWS.... Is this the answer to the UFO Riddle?

The NSOMBUFOG (Not so Many Blunders UFO Group) say they now have the answer to the UFO riddle. Using a donation from the now defunct VSUFOS (Very Silly UFO Society) they bought a kite equipped with a camera. Suspending it over a well known window area searching for a landed UFO a test photograph revealed, on development, a hollow patch on top of a tree. A group official said "In the past we have reported many sightings of UFOs coming out of the top of this tree, but we could never locate it exactly." The group are now known as the proponents of the Hollow Tree Theory. A spokesman for the rival IUFOG (Indoors UFO Skywatchers) claims that the theory will soon face the chop. He added "We base our ideas on the nuts and bolts hypotheses and are convinced that with the imminent closure of Corby steelworks reports of UFOs will gradually become less frequent" A well known researcher into the

Not so serious business Cont..

paraphysical side of UFOs said of these theories, "Whatever happens we shall not be long in dreaming up a new idea of our own"

STOP PRESS... Turn to the foot of Page 27 for yesterdays skywatch sighting results (Telegramme claims are not required)

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AFFILIATION OF UFO GROUPS AND NETWORK LIAISON

By Terry Hooper (BFSB)

At the May 1979 UFO conference in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, the view was expressed that those groups present should help to get themselves, and others, organised - since British Ufology had been disorganised for too long. It was not until a letter was sent out by SKYSCAN of Worcester on this theme that ideas began to come in. At the time I too was canvassing various groups for suggestions.

Around 20 southern groups whom I contacted seemed in favour of the idea and it was agreed to stage a meeting on September 15 when the various points could be discussed. All of these were from the south apart from Cheshire based FUFOR.

Discussed at this first meeting was the possibility of cooperation on research as well as investigation, an agreed classification system, and the helping out of each other by supplying details of how to build various pieces of technical equipment. UFO INFO from Warminster proposed a network magazine, but a number abstained from voting for various reasons.

Another matter raised was that of lone investigators, who it seems cause trouble by pushing in on group investigations. No group objected to these people being independent, but it was felt they should liaise over investigations. It was suggested that a code of ethics and conduct for serious investigators be drawn up. Other points concerned a possible HQ and who would be in charge. It was pointed out that nobody would be, except that the group hosting each meeting would be chairman.

The next meeting was held by SKYWATCH in Swindon on October 27 where it was officially announced that the system was to be called MAUFOG (Members of the Affiliated UFO Groups). I would like to make it perfectly clear that MAUFOG is not out to rival any existing network such as NUFON. If this were the case I would have nothing to do with it. I hope that all networks will liaise and cooperate closely in future. I would like to humbly suggest that NUFON consider organising a conference in 1980 to which all networks can be invited. I would further suggest that this take place in the 'neutral ground' of the Midlands.

There are many things I feel we could discuss at such a meeting eg:

- 1) RESEARCH COOPERATION There are many people within networks carrying out research into various aspects of the phenomenon. I have been researching CE3s now for 6/7 years for example. How much more would we achieve through cooperation?
- 2) INVESTIGATION As already mentioned a code of ethics and standard procedures is required. This would mainly be for the newcomer, but the code is badly needed to stop squabbling between groups. (Presumably the ones who would squabble would be the ones who do not sign this code anyway...Ed.)
- 3) REGIONAL AREAS There are several groups who have investigators in other areas and most are unknown to local investigators (and vice versa). If this group investigate a case, only to hear later that someone else is involved there is often friction. I therefore propose that groups keep to their own areas. Where there are two or three in one county they should be given certain areas to cover.
- 4) JOINT CONFERENCES A yearly conference should be organised welcoming papers on research, organisation etc. This would ensure a place where any grievances can be voiced and sorted out.

I would hope that the already existant networks get 3-5 representatives from each to attend MAUFOG meetings. If these people contact me I will give what support I can. This representation would, I feel, show that there is a willingness to cooperate on both sides. After all we are in the same boat.

It might help if groups exchanged magazines more widely with each other. This way you get a clearer picture of the people in different groups. I was regularly hearing comments about NUFON Secretary, Jenny Randles, which gave me some trepidation when I wrote her regarding liaison. I can now see that there are a lot of lies going around because people do not sort out their differences or because of jealousy. I too have come up against this myself. Without doubt this back-biting must stop. Let us sort these things out like adults and support those who become targets for people with bigger tongues than brains. We may never get another chance if we fail. It is not up to one individual or one group. It is up to all serious ufologists.

For quite some time now we have heard all sorts of argument within the UFO field about organisations falling out with each other, personality clashes and so on.

We overlook, it very much seems, the fact that the UFO has a potentiality to alter our society. Have we forgotten that these unidentified flying objects have the capability to change completely our way of life if they chose to make contact? Our whole civilisation could be altered, perhaps for the better (although I would personally doubt it) and the key lies with ourselves - the ufologists.

Not only this, but people are being hurt, disturbed and even killed by the UFO. Examples are the deaths of Jessup, MacDonald and others. They were active ufologists and they have died. How many UFO witnesses are terrified by their encounters? I'd wager a good percentage. Those injured rate highly, both physically and mentally. Examples are the Gregory Wells case (1), the Trevor P jellentities (2) and the Mrs X sexual assault case (3)

How long must we hesitate and yap while innocent people, young and old, male and female, suffer in this way? How long must we postpone finding the truth whilst the immediacy of contact and its consequences stare us in the face? The situation of ufology in this country is absurd. It is people's lives we are talking about, dealing with, and ignoring. We simply must solve this dilemma as fast as we can before God Knows what might happen. Is the fear of witnesses secondary to the megalomania of the selfish sadists who seem to comprise our organisations?

This preposterous situation can be solved now by cooperation.

At this point I acknowledge the mass suffering of innocents by our world governments and we are in the same position; some of us are greedy, others are honestly striving to help. Do governments control ufology? Most likely they do, but I am also certain that they operate via the UFO organisations (4) Until the day that a government officially admits what we suspect I shall endeavour to procure the necessary information to try to protect our society. I have every confidence that this information finds its way to the government and I must place my faith with them.

I have not as yet read seen any proof that UFOs are peaceful. It can be argued that witnesses recover after their encounter, but Trevor P has not and fear remains in a sizeable number of cases. They, the UFOs, are invited now to explain their position to the world at large - not just by single contact cases. I am sure we would all welcome such an explanation.

The cooperation that I propose as a solution is the following. I shall term it the "British UFO Groups Network", a title only. The application could be the same for all overseas countries. Several facets can only be detailed on discussion after its implementation.

The mainstay is depositories, or HQs (such as the one in Nottingham), equally spaced throughout the UK for the housing of completed reports and their study. I propose SCOTLAND, NORTH ENGLAND & WALES (already NUFON) and South England and Wales. The Channel Isles, Isle of Man, Ireland, Shetland & Orkney can be separate or under an appropriate region as thought fit (IRELAND virtually has a network in existence now - Ed) The idea of one central depository (Nottingham as it is established?) to house one other copy of all regional reports is reasonable.

The regional HQs must be in a town or city with good communications. Publicising the data itself is vital and thus the HQs must be accessible to all network members. The existence of reports added to the files must be mentioned in a regular publication based on NUFONs Northern UFO News and Northern Ufology.

The essence of a network, other than one large organisation, is that it only has one administrator, and levels all members at equal status. There is no authority, committees or councils. The administrator can deal with problems of coordination, secretariat, editing and treasury.

Of course all active organisations or individuals in each region should become members of the network by a subscription system, receiving in return the publication and access, without question, to the HQ and the files.

National groups can be treated in one of three ways with submissions to the network - via the investigator, their regional coordinator or their head office. Cultist organisations, particularly religious fanatics, should be fully investigated as would a CE4. If a hoax is suspected, and thus exploitation of the UFO enigma, all effort must be made to close down that cult. Apart from exploitation we do not want ramblings like Devil Worship orgies do we? Our combined efforts should destroy the cult. On the other hand, if it is considered genuine, then membership of the network should be offered.

However, if any individual or group causes disruption without good reason then that body must be free to leave the network, as soon as possible. People who are not prepared to cooperate with bodies they dislike are of no use to ufology. Would you ever quarrel in such a way with your employers? I would not give a fig if the Network lost all its 'serious' members - if this is what they think 'serious' means. We are out to solve a problem and it involves everyone and everything.

Circulated through the networks should be a list of members holding equipment for use. This could be regularly updated. Standard of submitted reports is very important, but must be perfected parallel with the basic establishment of this network system. I will not linger on this as UFOIN has been working on this matter for some time now and just published standard investigation criteria that John Hind and Martin Keatman have formulated.

Obtaining copies of reports can be costly, but should still work out more cheaply than if they were obtained commercially. This matter has to be resolved in some way, but for all to reap the benefits it would be a good idea if network members could obtain copies free whilst outsiders were charged for these.

Training of investigators is naturally important, but I am sure "investigation ethics", lately written of by Mark Moravec of ACOS (5) and Dr Berthold Schwarz (6) is a superfluous reminder to us all.

The UFO Investigators Network (UFOIN) could well maintain its stance as an agency dealing only with high strangeness cases, procuring 'hard data' although I would suggest its file be available to the appropriate network and noted in network publications (those relevant to NUFON are on both counts - Ed) I also envisage the establishment of a "research agency" to house projects, papers and new reports applicable. This agency could also deal with matters falling just outside field investigator ability - checking ley-line positions, historical factors of an area and comparison with other cases. The new Institute For UFO Studies, which FSR have just launched, may fill this need.

Situation reports from each network member should be sent to the secretary annually and published. Financial positions of the network should not be confidential, although the running of a network should not be profitable.

This then is a brief run-down of the British UFO Groups Network which can and must work. Details can be resolved later but the importance of the actual formulation is paramount. Do not forget our responsibility to society. Do you want your child to end up like Jessup, Trevor P or Mrs X?

Ufology is not a social club. We should not dish out "flying saucer" ties, "T" shirts or annual awards for the best ufologist. This is silly. We need hard work - and those not prepared to do this should get right out of the kitchen.

References: 1) Occurred Beallsville, Ohio, USA on the evening of March 14 1968
2) FSR Vol 24 No 4 3) STRANGE PHENOMENA 1 & 2 4) NORTHERN UFOLOGY 62
5) MAPIT SKYWATCH 33 (from ACOS Bulletin 17) 6) MAGONIA 1 (MUFOB 50)

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THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM by Jenny Randles (MUFORA)

Although one cannot really disassociate British Ufology from the rest of the world for our purposes we must do so. For it is only this that we are in a position to do anything about.

I have allowed three light hearted contributions to appear in this debate, and it must be an indication of the situation that this topic has produced so many veiled critiques. Their inclusion teaches two important things, however. Firstly, that we can take this precious subject of ours far too seriously and, more importantly, they illustrate much better than any serious tome the absurd state of the art.

Of course, it has to be recalled that we are dealing with people - and not just ordinary people but Ufologists. This combination does a lot to answer the why of it all I am sure we could all put real names to the characters in Ted Horton's amusing diversion. Many people become involved in Ufology because it is a release from computerised modern life. Rather than be a number a Ufologist becomes an individual in a situation where he can boost his ego (however little he realises this subconscious intent) I once wrote an editorial asking people to ponder why they had become interested in the subject. I fear lack of honesty in this respect has a lot to do with our present sorry state.

Consequently, I think it is foolish to expect that we are going to revitalise ufology overnight. Indeed I doubt that there is too much we can do at all. People will still want to run their own little group and will not wish to sacrifice their own ideals. Cooperation - to a large extent - must sadly remain a dream.

Considering this situation we must acknowledge that national groups such as BUFORA, CONTACT, BUFOS and no doubt others in the future, will continue to desire autonomy (and to some degree omnipotence). There will also be like minded local groups (and networks) and individuals. All we can do about this is try not to antagonise relationships too much, although not without sacrificing the right to speak openly what we consider to be truth.

I personally feel that the investigatory approach of UFOIN (selected cases investigated by investigators working to agreed minimum criteria) and the research proposals of FSRs new Institute are the way towards progress. The UFOIN (and NUFON) freewheeling 'everyone id equal' principle is vital. No authority means no personality clashes and no bureaucracy. I feel that in these respects British Ufology is healthier than most countries, and continued support thereof will be productive towards the solutions that have eluded the thousand membership societies.

I also feel NUFON has value provided we recognise its limitations. All it is in essence is a communications system that allows fully independant groups to exchange news, ideas and information - via magazines, the HQ and files and regular meetings and discussions. I believe in the community spirit of NUFON and that we should encourage the moves to set up compatable networks elsewhere (cf David Sydeserff). However, there is no point in a multiplicity of networks since this only hinders progress and I still remain at a loss to understand why MAUFOG is not a southern network version of NUFON and, otherwise, what it will do NUFON is not doing now.

There will be dissentors, but at least we are making the right moves (in the sense that any moves towards cooperation are better than none) Ufology is about cooperation between independantly thinking ufologists who do not need to be told what to do by a committee or council.

Naturally, one could make wildly optimistic predictions about the future - but to what purpose? Ufology is as it is for basic sociological and psychological reasons which will not suddenly alter. All we can do is try our best to do our best. I am reasonably happy that with NUFON and UFOIN we are on our way to that.

* * * * *

GOSSIP FROM UFULK

by Ivan Eartotheground (IURC)

(All names have been removed to protect the guilty... Ed)

Your intrepid reporter has been behind the scenes reading between lines at the First London International UFO Congress, probably the top ufological bun-fight of 1979.

He has it on good authority, for example, that a certain Manchester based lady ufologist was seen eating breakfast with a leading American professor and sometimes ufologist at his hotel. Ivan could not help noticing the frequency that our lady ufologists name was mentioned, to the apparant chagrin of the congress organisers, in the address of this ageing American the next day. Where was the well-healed fiance of the BUFORA Chairman's favourite ufologist whilst all this was going on? According to sources close to British Rail, he was indulging in his hobby of the time..... train spotting!

Few congress members noticed the innordinant ammount of time that two Irish ufologists spent in secluded corners with a certain soft spoken French Engineer. Were they plugging him for information about GEPAN, or is there another perfectly innocent explanation?

One Nottingham snail expert was conspicuous by his absence. According to usually reliable sources he was visiting an un-named East-European country at the time, ostensibly delivering a talk on "The reaction of Fresh water Mollusca (snails to you, me and the girl next door) to pollution" The same sources claim that in reality he was distributing copies of a certain imperialist subversive magazine to prominent East-European scientists.

Maggie (McCarthy) Thatcher's latest witch-hunt has a prominent ufologist and erstwhile diplomat worried. Seems he spent several years working with Guy Burgess which makes him suspect on at least two counts. Maggie has him pegged as the fifth man, and he has been heard to express the opinion that the Prime Minister is a double-agent for the MIBs, not actually being elligible as an MIB herself.

PS (Ed) Also note that a certain editor of a long standing British UFO Review was also not at the congress. When asked about the rumour that he did not attend because he was rather involved at the time with another past-time (apparantly walled Ufology) he declined to comment.

LOW DEFINITION UFO ACTIVITY

Ref	Date	Time	Place	Object	Duration	Invest	I.L.	Eval
76-165	Mar 2	03.00	Fife, Scotland	Flares	??	Sydeserff	E	Insuff
78-249	Early	05.60	Llangefni, Gwynedd	Grn LITS	5 Secs	UFORA Sfs	-C	Meteors
7999	Oct 17	00.15	St Helens, Merseyside	W LITS	3/4 Secs	MIGAP	B	Meteors
79-103	Dec 5	21.30	Scunthorpe, Humberside	Multi LITS	10 Min	SUFORS	C	Insuff
79-101	Nov 19 1979	(20.00)	Sutton Heath, Merseyside	Brian Fishwick	(MIGAP)	A		

Woman and 8 yr old daughter saw a semi-circle of about 6 W Lits flashing on and off in a semi-circular anticlockwise pattern. Hovered over rooftops opposite with no sound then moved off NNW towards power station stopping and hovering twice more en route. Liverpool ATC had no aircraft in area. UNKNOWN

MEDIUM DEFINITION UFO ACTIVITY

78-253 Nov 2 19.50 Castle Eden, Tyne & Wear 10 Min CHRYISIS B Insuff
(A naval architect and his girlfriend on A19 noted v. low and bright star. Shortly after got out of car to watch brilliant oval just above ground level in field. It then shot vertically, revealing circle of R & G LITS on underside then moved off)

78-254 Nov 4 18.15 Earl Shilton, Leics 25min HAPI C Optical?
(Woman and son watching bonfires in distance saw pulsating red dome in sky. Stationary and still there when left. Optical reflection of a ground fire??)

78-255 Nov 8 17.55 Hinckley, Leics 2 Min HAPI C Insuff
(Woman, daughter, son and his friend saw W LITS which passed over slowly on a silent E-W course. Behind it they thought they saw a disc with a dome and a faint outline of four large rectangular windows in the lower part of the disc)

7997 Jun 1 03.00 Clayton-Le-Moors, Lancs 1 1/2 Min MUFORA C Insuff
(61 yr old woman woke at time to see W oval 'like a rowing boat' in S. Hovered silently 1 min and then moved off E, floating like a balloon. Felt astonished)

7998 Aug 24 11.40 Coleshill, Wkshire 1 1/2 Min UFOSIS B Insuff
(Three boys going to fair saw silver dome shape with dark underside above fair. It slowly moved away and ascended, zig-zagging as it did slightly. Pos Balloon)

79-100 Oct 24 07.25 Up Holland, Lancs Seconds MIGAP B Meteor
(Scientist at Heinze driving to work saw green tadpole streak across sky on descending course. Tallies exactly in time with multiple sightings in Scotland of an object identified as a fireball meteor... see Report 7994 (Dec 1979 NUN))

79-104 Dec 18 21.00 Hr Blackley, Gtr M/Cr 5 secs MUFORA B Meteor
(Woman saw bright W ball of light streak across sky W-E. Seen also in parts of Cheshire. Certainly a fireball meteor. Witness accepted this as probable)

UFO ON THE MOON? Case 78-251 Investigated by Gordon Barraclough (NLUFOIG) B

On June 11 1978 16 yr old David Storey was looking through his 40mm 50x telescope at the moon when he saw a black 'cog' shaped object come into view. It was the same size in the field of view as a small crater (eg Columbo-Neander). It was stationary for a few seconds and then moved slowly towards the moon's terminator disappearing into shadow. This took 25 seconds. As it moved it rotated anti-clockwise twice a second. David looked away to check he had nothing in his eye. He looked back 20 seconds later and soon saw it come out of the terminator and then turn again heading into it at a different point. Again it was in view 25 seconds. It did not reappear.

UNKNOWN RCM 4 M S

78-251

79-102

EGG SHAPED UFO NEAR WIGAN Case 79-102 Investigated Brian Fishwick (MIGAP) A

19 yr old June Hibbert went to bed late on Wed/Thur November 28/29 1979. At just after 01.00 she heard a bang. She got out of bed but saw nothing untoward in the garden. Back in bed she heard a buzzing, faint, but at 01.45 she got out again. In the sky she saw a large egg shaped object with a hazy halo around it. Around the middle were a row of five Orange/yellow lights that pulsed dim/high alternately. The object hovered for a minute then moved very slowly W-E. Immediately opposite it hovered again and then moved away northwards. At this point the buzzing stopped. She called the Gtr Manchester police who visited her next day and were totally convinced of her integrity. The police eventually relayed the case to NUFON.

78-250 April 30 1978 Millhead, N. Lancs CE1 Psycho Lev B NLUFOIG (G. Barracough)

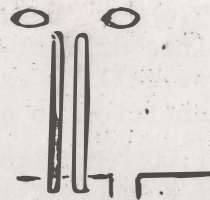
13 yr old Debra Simpson and 12 yr old twins Guinivere and Charles Glasford were walking home from Warton, Lancs along a public footpath. They saw the object in the distance moving slowly over houses in the SW and presumed it to be an aircraft, but then it descended until only about 25 feet above the path some distance ahead. It was hovering and making a loud high pitched buzzing sound. The object itself was now clearly visible, shaped like a cigar with pointed ends. It was dull grey in colour and had three erratically flashing lights. The right hand one was red, the middle one orange and the left hand one yellow/white. The whole area was suddenly very still and quiet. In size they estimate it to have been about 17 feet in length and 6-7 feet in height at the widest point. They walked towards it for 2



minutes and when within 100 feet it suddenly accelerated vertically and moved off NE at a fast speed. By now the children were very frightened and ran off down the path towards home. They saw the object again in the distance, hovering over some electricity pylons. It then moved away very fast to the SW, passing its original position and disappearing. It was in view 10 minutes altogether. The night was still and clear and it was still light (Time 20.30) Debra came down with influenza immediately afterwards, and two days after the sighting Guinivere had a dream which relived it. This recurred for several nights afterwards. RCM 6 MS UNKNOWN

SOLID LIGHTBEAMS OBSERVED YET AGAIN78-252 October 8 1978 Stafford, Staffs CE1 An Lev A PARASEARCH (M. Keatman)

The witnesses are David and Rosemary Simkins (in their 30's) who live in a block of pre-war terraced housing which at the back overlooks a playing fields and beyond that an RAF Munitions base. It is used also to monitor all radio frequencies on a 24 hour basis searching for illegal broadcasts. The object sighted was directly over the base. It was 22.15 as David Simkins took his Alsatian dog Chief into the narrow back gardens to go out for his customary walk. The dog is an ex-police dog and thus well trained. Instead of rushing out through the back gate it froze dead in its tracks in the garden as if aware of an intruder. David rushed forward and bumped into the animal, but he still did not move. At this point David saw over the RAF base two beams of light in the ESE which were identical and side by side. They seemed totally solid. They seemed to emanate from two hazy oval blobs above the base. The beams came down in front of one of the buildings on the base and cut off sharply at the top. They did not light up any of the surrounds. Shortly after first seeing them he went out through the gate and stood by the fence of the playing fields opposite to see them more clearly. After ten seconds he turned round and went back to the house to call his wife. He then went back the garden just in time to see the beams cut off together and instantaneously. At this the dog seemed to become normal again and moved about the garden. However, the source of the beams was still visible - two sharply defined white ovals at 15 degree elevation above the base. Within seconds they came together much closer but did not merge and then shot instantly up into the sky until at several hundred metres height and elevation 60 degrees. This took just 2 seconds. They stopped dead and after about ten seconds began to move slowly across the sky towards his position. At this point his wife came out and they both watched the two balls of light move slowly out of view, taking 6 minutes to vanish over the roof. There had been no sound at any stage and they had seen no object behind the lights. An extensive investigation was undertaken but no explanation has been forthcoming. On this same night there were several CE reports made to NUFON from the region ... see for example 78/143; 78/144 and 78/233 in the relevant issues of Northern UFO News. RCM 27 M P S UNKNOWN



STATISTICS FOR THIS ISSUE: Cases 16; Insuff data 6; Meteors 4; Reflection 1
UFO 5 (31 %)

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